

Legal aid to overseas Indians

3845. SHRI K. SOMAPRASAD: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether any legal aid is being provided to overseas Indians;
- (b) whether any swadeshi advocate service is being provided by the Indian embassies to them and if so, the details thereof; and
- (c) whether there is any scheme for free legal aid to them?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) The Government has accorded topmost priority to the welfare and protection of Overseas Indians. Indian Missions and Posts abroad assist in extending legal aid to the Indian nationals wherever needed. Missions and Posts also maintain a local panel of lawyers where Overseas Indian community is in sizable number. Initial legal assistance is also available to Indian nationals abroad on gratis basis in the most deserving cases on a means tested basis through the Indian Community Welfare Fund.

Internationalising Hafiz Sayeed issues

3846. SHRI KIRANMAY NANDA: Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

- (a) whether Government is aware that Pakistan Government is under pressure now about the terrorist Hafiz Sayeed and this is high time to take up the matter at international platforms;
- (b) if so, the details of Government's plan on this very sensitive matter; and
- (c) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS [GENERAL (RETD.) V. K. SINGH]: (a) to (c) Hafiz Sayeed is a designated terrorist and listed by the United Nations Sanctions Committee under the UN Security Council Resolution 1267. Effective action mandated internationally against Hafiz Sayeed and his terrorist organizations is an obligation on part of all UN member states, including Pakistan. India continues to consistently emphasize, including at international fora, the need for Pakistan to effectively and sincerely take action against terrorists like Hafiz Sayeed and enforce the provisions of the sanctions regime under UN Security Council 1267.